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SATURDAY MARCH 14, 1903.

NOW FOR THE PRIMARY.

In the course of a discussion in the House on the Barksdale pure elections bill, one of the speakers remarked that he had heard no great cry for pure elections save from the Senator from Halifax. It should be further stated, however, that this remark was made in fun. Surely no member of the General Assembly could have made such a remark in earnest. There is a demand all through the State of Virginia for pure elections, and the fact that the Barksdale bill was passed by an almost unanimous vote is conclusive of that statement. The members of the General Assembly are representatives of the people, and they vote as their constituents desire them to vote. The sentiment of the people, so far as it has been expressed or so far as it is known, is pretty well represented in the actions of the members of the General Assembly.

The demand for pure elections was first expressed in a call for a Constitutional Convention. It was then expressed in the suffrage clause of the Constitution, which was designed to get rid of the cause of corruption and the pretext for it. And now that the negro vote is out of the way, now that there is no occasion for bribery or trickery or corruption of any sort, the great body of Virginia people demand that elections shall be free and pure.

A great deal has been said in print and on the stump about the money power. Money is a power, and men who have money are very apt to become arrogant, very apt to use their money to promote their interests. But when money is used to influence voters or to influence legislation, it is used to rob the people of their liberties. It is just here that the people must be vigilant. It is just here that the law must take the money power by the throat and throttle it. We are not afraid of corporations per se. So long as they confine themselves to legitimate business they will do the country a service, and so long as they deal with the general public they must be on their good behavior, so far as their business transactions go. But when they use their money to corrupt the suffrage or to secure legislation in their favor, they do become a dangerous element in the republic.

Everything possible should be done in law and otherwise to prevent the use of money in elections. It is demoralizing, it is corrupting, it tends to stifle the voice of the people, and it is to be discouraged and discountenanced and prohibited.

Some of the members of the House of Delegates wished to insert in the Barksdale bill an amendment providing that money should not be used "corruptly." But if money is to be used without limit, how is it possible to prevent it from being used corruptly. Even the best of men, with the best of intentions, cannot prevent the corrupt use of money which they have let out, when once it has passed out of their hands. A candidate may take his agents into his private office and charge them upon their honor and command them not to let a dollar of money contributed be used otherwise than legitimately. But when he has turned that money loose to his agents and when the agents have turned it loose to the sub-agents, how is it possible for the candidate to prevent the money from being used to debauch the suffrage? The only way to check it is to prohibit the use of money except for the bare necessities of the case, and then to require the candidates to render a strict account of all their expenditures.

Now let us have legalized primaries and let us have the Barksdale bill applied in all its force to primary elections. In this State primary elections are really more important than regular elections, and it is more to the point to have the provisions of the Barksdale bill applied to the primaries than to the regular elections. The Democratic party has spoken in favor of legalized primaries, and the new Constitution commends the General Assembly to enact such a law. The passage of the Barksdale bill is a great triumph for honest politics and honest Democracy in the State of Virginia, and the triumph will be complete if only the General Assembly will enact a law legalizing primaries.

NORMAN RANDOLPH.

Major Norman V. Randolph, whose death we record this morning, has been a vital force in Richmond enterprise and public spirit for many years. In the struggle for Southern independence he was one of Mosby's men, and he came out of the army with little of this world's goods, but he had immense energy, good business sense and great willingness to work.

In association with his worthy and well-remembered father he conducted the book-selling and book-binding business here for some years. There he laid the foundation of a paper box manufacturing business, which he afterwards developed and organized into a separate company, and which has become one of Richmond's important industries.

In the management of that enterprise, and in the presidency of the Virginia State Insurance Company, one would have thought he would have no leisure for public service; but not so. He was diligent in forwarding the work of the Chamber of Commerce, and one time or another served as a fire commissioner and as a member of all sorts of veterans' organizations and citizens' associations for promoting the progress of the city and the welfare of his fellow-man.

Lee Camp and Lee Camp Soldiers' Home are largely indebted to him for their success; it is doubtful, indeed, if a Home ever would have had existence but for him.

The fact is that Richmond never had a more public-spirited citizen than Norman Randolph. And when he gave his support to a cause he threw into it his whole heart and all the vigor of an uncommonly vigorous personality. His character was in keeping with his towering stature and he was born with the disposition to lead and with the desire to be a useful citizen. He had little skill in concealing his feelings, and was a plain-spoken man, but he had a generous disposition and and was very sincere and loyal to church, family and friends, to the memory of Confederate days and to Virginia.

In short, he was an "upright, all right, downright man."

JAMESTOWN.

It seems to us that the General Assembly is under a moral obligation to the Jamestown Exposition Company to give that patriotic enterprise the moral and material support of the State. The celebration is the State's affair, and it is a noble anniversary that should be celebrated in a becoming manner and in a manner worthy of the occasion and worthy of the State.

It is something more than sentiment. The American idea was born at Jamestown, the American republic was cradled on that historic spot. The American idea has now spread over the whole world and the American republic has become the greatest nation on the globe. Of course we should celebrate the Jamestown anniversary, and we should celebrate it by showing the progress that this State and this nation have made within the past three hundred years.

We are not so narrow as to begrudge the people of that section the benefits which they will get. They have taken upon themselves a heavy burden, a burden which perhaps no other section of the State would have been willing to assume, and they are welcome to all that they can make out of it. The State should encourage them and aid them in every possible way.

But even from a business point of view, it is to the interest of the entire Commonwealth to encourage this great exposition. It will bring millions of people to Vrginia; it will bring millions of money into the State; it will enhance the value of lands; it will be the means of advertising the State as she has never been advertised and as she could be advertised in no other way, and we believe that it will result in bringing many settlers into our borders.

It is the patriotic duty of Virginia to support this enterprise; it is the duty of the General Assembly to keep faith with the Jamestown Exposition Company. It will be hurtful to the State to refuse to lend its aid to the enterprise; it will be of the greatest benefit to the State materially to make this exposition a great success.

SAVE THE TREES.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature for the protection of trees in the rural highways. It reserves to property owners the right to cultivate, train and use trees adjoining their premises. If they put out fruit trees they may reap the harvests, but it forbids all persons without a permit from the Highway Commissioner to cut down, girdle, mutilate, injure or disfigure any tree in the highway, and any person having reason to do any of these things must first secure a permit, and before such permit is granted the adjoining property owner must have notice and an opportunity for hearing.

This shows what a high estimate the authorities of New York put upon trees, and we wish it were so in Virginia. Perhaps there is no need for a law to protect trees on the highways of Virginia, but there is need for more stringent regulations in the cities. We are not surprised to learn that the city of New York has a law covering this point. It gives the Park Commissioner, of the city entire control of the street trees, even to the point of forbidding property owners to trim, care for or even plant trees in front of their houses.

We have many magnificent trees in Richmond, and they are both useful and ornamental. They are a delight to the eye in the spring and summer season, and they do a great deal to mitigate the heat of summer. Every leaf on a tree is a reflector of heat and tends to carry off the oppressing rays of the sun. In a large tree the area of all the leaves is something enormous, and every such tree is as a Jonah's gourd to shield the people from the scorching sun. It takes a long time to grow a tree, and it does seem to us a shame and a sin to kill or mutilate a tree along the streets which cannot be replaced for years to come.

Yet many people in Richmond do not seem to consider this matter, and it is enough to arouse the indignation of all tree lovers to walk along the streets, even in the fashionable parts of the city, and see how the bark has been torn off. This is done for the most part by horses which have been hitched to the trees, and sometimes it is done by boys for pure vandalism.

Let us have better protection for our trees in Richmond. They are a most valuable asset, and they should have our greatest care and consideration.

Governor Gavin's message to the Legislature of Rhode Island on vote-buying in that State has created some little stir and shows that Rhode Island is very much in need of a Barksdale pure elections law. The statement is made by a local paper that of the members of the Legislature who heard the message read quite a number could be and ought to be sent to the penitentiary for violating the present laws against bribery in elections. Perhaps this accounts for the failure of the Legislature to act promptly and vigorously on the recomendations of the Governor. While the law-making body is indifferent, it is said that the good people of the State are somewhat stirred up and fully appreciate the Governor's patriotic purpose and applaud his action.

A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun writes to that paper asking if "the Federal government refuses to allow Virginia to place a statue of General R. E. Lee in the Capitol, could not the State withdraw the statue of Washington from the Capitol?"

Our understanding is that that statue was placed there, not by Virginia, but by Congress. It is a replica of Houdon's statue (the original of which is in the rotunda of the Capitol here), and is of plaster.

The Methodists of Chicago are planning to have a fifteen-story building. The new structure will be in the heart of the business district and "will contain a church auditorium surpassing anything of this kind in the world."

Some of our esteemed contemporaries in the rural districts are beginning to bear the announcement cards of candidates for the county offices to be filled at the election next fall. The worm will have to hustle to keep away from the early birds this year. They are hungry.

In Maine the prohibitionists voted for prohibition the other day as a matter of principle, and the liquor men favored it because it saves them the cost of license, and so it happened that Maine stuck to her "prohibition" by a vote that bordered upon unanimity.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who conducted the woman's suffrage campaign in New Hampshire, did not secure enough votes to allow women to vote, but she says she secured enough evidence to disfranchise quite a number of men by sending them to the penitentiary.

Judge Mann says his bill enables the country people to say whether or not "they want a bar-room in their midst." We take it that the worst old topers would not want a bar-room in their midst. That would deprive them of the pleasure of going through the act of drinking.

Say what you may about it, the failure of prohibition in Amherst county was due to the one fact that the public sentiment of Amherst county was not in favor of prohibition.

With Crumi's shell retired, the navy is all right. Now, if the War Department could find some way to house Corbin, what an era of peace and good feeling there would be.

The Burdick murder mystery continues to give Buffalo a front-page top-of-column-alongside-pure-reading-matter position.

The original "Uncle Toms" are dying out rapidly. Soon the last one of them will have passed over the river.

Last Monday was ground hog "Easter," his forty day limit being up, and the weather continues springlike.

The big Western rivers are making no joke of pooling their issues.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

Things are getting in a terrible condition up about Buena Vista. The Advocate says:

High water, mumps and the near approach of spring, are the three main things in the public eye here just now.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot thinks the lesson to be learned from the Campbell case is that the power to punish for contempt should be restricted. It concludes an article on the subject thus:

The Virginian-Pilot has the utmost respect for the judiciary as a whole and understands the necessity of keeping it in the respect of the people. For that very reason we say that the power to punish for contempt should be defined. And in justification of that position, we point to the Campbell case, in which the abuse of that power has resulted in greater impairment of the respect of the people for the judiciary than anything that has occurred in a quarter of a century.

Referring to the reappearance of Senator Gorman at the front, the Petersburg Index-Appeal says:

"If the Democratic party will follow his advice, both in the Fifty-eighth Congress and in the National Convention, which nominates a candidate for President next year, there will be some encouragement to hope that the Democratic party has yet some future for usefulness in the twentieth century.

The Newport News Times-Herald says:

"The Senators are paid by the year and they can talk for the next twelve months if they so desire, but it all seems like a senseless proposition to us. A majority of any legislative body should control and there should be no such thing as defeating a square vote on any legislation that arises."

Personal and General.

Miss Alice Roosevelt has sailed for Porto Rico, and will spend several weeks with Miss Elizabeth Hunt, daughter of Governor Hunt.

Mr. Ankeny, the only new United States Senator who has not yet taken the oath of office, is ill with inflammatory rheumatism at the Arlington Hotel in Washington.

Parke Goodwin, the veteran editor, and a son-in-law of William Cullen Bryant, has just celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday. He resides the greater part of the year at the former home of the poet, Roslyn, Long Island.

Pedro Tinsley, professor of music at Tuskegee Institute, has resigned and returned to his position of Pullman car porter. He says "Mr. Washington is an able head of a great institution, but has little conception of music."

Senator Depew's autobiography in the Congressional Directory, noted for its length, is eclipsed by Robert Baker in the new directory. Baker is representative from Brooklyn, and requires 1,000 words to tell the story of his life.

"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG. Copyright by Philip Little.

CHAPTER XXXII.

When Bobs came to himself he saw a pair of large brown eyes looking into his, and an anxious face surrounding them. He was stretched out in the stateroom of the car, and sitting on the edge of the berth opposite him was a pleasant-faced man with a short brown mustache.

"What has happened to me" he asked, looking first at Anita and then at the man sitting on the berth. "More trouble?"

"No, Bobs, you only fainted. This is Dr. Andrews, who happened to be in the next car and who immediately offered his services. You got a little excited telling me of your experiences, and when you stood up it was too much for you and you fainted."

"You are all right, Mr. Morgan," said the doctor, "you were a little overstrained after your injuries. You see you have had quite a good deal to contend with in the past two years, and even at your age it is a shock to the nerves. You must keep quiet at present, and Miss Van Nostrand has directions as to what to do for you, so you will not lack care and attention, I am sure. If I am needed no not hesitate to call me at once."

After he had gone Mr. Elliot and Mr. Van Nostrand appeared in the doorway.

"Well, Anita," said the latter, "how is the patient?"

"Doing finely, papa. The doctor says that it was nothing but nerves. Bobs will be up and doing before a great while, but in the meantime must be kept quiet and free from excitement."

"We are rapidly nearing our journey's end," was the reply, "and once in New York we can look after him."

"New York," muttered Bobs; "New York is the scene of all my troubles!"

"There, there, Bobs," broke in Anita; "the nurse objects to such depressing ideas. You are going to be taken care of and watched, and no harm shall come to you. Cheer up. It is always darkest before the dawn, you know."

"It is awfully good of you, Anita, to look after me. I shall never forget it."

"I hope you will not," said the girl to herself. She did not find the task an easy one, for she was hopelessly in love with him and yet she could not show it. Aloud she said:

"Now, do not be foolish Bobs. What else could I do? Did you not save my life? It is little enough for me to do in return to sit here and try to cheer you up." Again to herself, "and if you knew how much I liked it, even if it is rather a hard position to be put in, you would not worry over me at all."

Bobs himself was in no easy place. It was dawning upon him that Anita was very dear to him, very dear indeed, and yet he was too proud to tell her so until he had won a name for himself. This of course the girl did not know, so they worked at cross purposes.

"It is very good of you, just the same," he murmured. "There are few girls that would put themselves out as you have, first at the Merrivelt hospital, then in Chicago, and now here."

"You deserve it all for what you did for me." And then to herself she said, "O, you blind bat, cannot you see that I would rather be with you than do anything else? What fools men are!"

Bobs laid his hand upon hers and the girl's face flushed as a thrill ran through her and her pulse quickened.

"You disaparage yourself, Anita. I did only what any man would have done."

"There were plenty of other men there, but they did not do it. Do not talk nonsense. Disparage myself! I should like to know what you are doing?"

Mr. Van Nostrand interrupted at this moment.

"We are nearing New York rapidly; will Bobs be able to walk or shall we have a wheel chair?"

"I should ask Dr. Andrews. O, here he comes! We were just going to send for you, doctor. Shall Bobs attempt to walk, or shall we have a wheel chair for him?"

"The less exertion the better, I should say, Miss Van Nostrand. I should advise the chair."

"Very well, I will get one," said Mr. Elliott. "A porter will be at the car, and we can have one immediately."

The train ran into the great terminal, and as soon as the hurrying crowd had melted away Bobs was helped to the chair and taken to the Van Nostrand carriage, which awaited them. Mr. Elliot, who was also to be a guest at the house, followed closely after, and the whole party were soon under the hospitable roof of Bob's benefactor.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Mr. Redmond having arrived safely in New York, and having managed to get by the customs officials without loss of life or limb, and with his garments more or less intact, he being a foreigner on business, and not an American, and, moreover, traveling light, installed himself in a hotel in a central position, sent off his letter to A4244 and awaited results.

He did not have to wait long, as on the following morning a knock came at his door. He opened it, and there stood a tall, fairly well dressed man, with a reddish complexion, dark brown beard and mustache, and wearing glasses of a gray hue, which rested on a well-formed aquiline nose.

"Mr. Redmond?" was the query, in an even tone of voice without accent of any kind.

"I am Mr. Redmond, do you wish to see me?" He motioned with his hand for the other to enter.

The man in the doorway put his hand into his pocket and produced a letter, which he handed to Mr. Redmond. The latter saw that it was his own letter directed to A4244.

"You are A4244?" he asked.

"I represent A4244," was the reply.

"That is sufficient; step in, sir."

The man walked into the room without the slightest appearance of doubt or hesitation and Mr. Redmond closed the door behind him.

"Would it not be wiser, Mr. Redmond, to lock the door for fear of interruption?"

"No one will interrupt us, and besides—"

"You do not care to trust yourself in a closed room with me. I am taking equal risks, except that I know that the word of an English solicitor is not to be questioned."

"You flatter me, sir."

"No, I simply state a fact."

"I thank you for the compliment, nevertheless, and shall return it by saying that I have equal confidence in you."

"You have no reason to."

"As much as you have to feel it in me."

"Not at all. You belong to an honored profession, to a body of men noted for their integrity and high standing. I belong to no profession, and I have no high standing."

"Pardon me, but I should doubt the latter part of that statement."

There was the faintest possible start on the part of the man with the eyeglasses, but he controlled himself.

"I beg your pardon," he said, in the same even tone, "I do not quite understand you."

"You say that you have no high standing. Possibly you have not at the present time, through circumstances. But you must have had some standing at some time or you would not have such confidence in me, nor would you know of the members of the English legal fraternity and their reputation for integrity. Of course, I refer to the higher branches of the law and not the pettifoggers."

"My information is of a varied nature on many subjects, and does not presuppose necessarily that I was in a position to judge from equal ground."

"Possibly not. However, we are not here to discuss that part of the question. We are here to see whether we can come to an agreement about this young earl of Grassmere, and the reward for his recovery."

"Certainly, I understand it that way."

"Can you produce him?"

"I shall be able to give you information as to his exact whereabout in two or three days. What are the terms of the reward?"

"We will pay you the reward upon his production, or information that will lead to his certain discovery."

"Is it paid upon receipt of the information, or upon his appearance?"

"We must know for certain that it is he."

"I see. If I give you the means of obtaining the proofs will that be sufficient to entitle me to the reward?"

"Yes, provided that the proofs turn out to be genuine and the person you name is the real earl of Grassmere."

"That he is the real earl of Grassmere there is not a shadow of a doubt. It will take a few days to get the proofs, but they can be produced."

"Very well, then, either the proofs or tell us how to get them. Show me where the earl is to be seen or found, and when it is satisfactorily proved that what you state is correct, the reward is yours."

"And I shall not be disturbed?"

"And you will not be disturbed."

"Upon your word of honor?"

"Upon my word of honor."

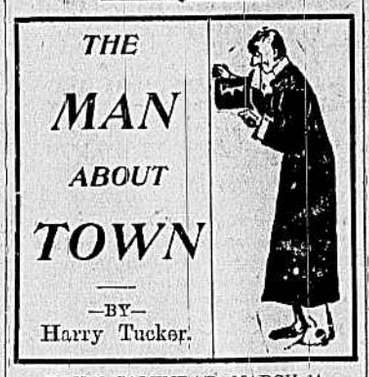
"I am satisfied. You will probably here from me in a day or two. Good morning."

The two men parted, and the one with the eye-glasses walked out of the hotel and into a side street.

"Now how am I to get those proofs?" he said to himself. "There is no question as to the identity, no doubt whatsoever, but how on earth to prove it I do not at this moment clearly see. I must admit. For once I am at a loss. I suppose that Reddie has some proofs, unless he has destroyed them. I must try to see what I can find out."

He walked rapidly to the next avenue, called a hansom and drove to his lodgings.

(To be Continued.)



DAILY CALENDAR—MARCH 14.

1901—Captain Phillips got up an Easter celebration in Capitol Square.

1903—Got up another one.

* * *

We wouldn't give anything for the membership we hold in that select little Bohemian club, "The Happy Family."

The delightful simplicity of the whole affair touched us to the core, and as we drank the ale from our mug, our thoughts went back to the days of the old Horseshoe Club and the Imperial Hotel, where little Willie, with the pink ribbon about his neck, played such a part.

We felt that those good old days were coming back, and as the sweet voices of the ladies, framed off with the husky notes of the men, sang that beautiful old ballad, "Under the Bamboo Tree," we felt indeed that we had no further to seek, and that it was time to call a policeman or a cab.

We like to drop into the arms of Orpheus or Venus or any of those old gods at such times, and as we filled our mug again and smiled sweetly to ourselves, we felt indeed that we had heard worse singing somewhere, but could not remember where.

There is so much difference in singing on the stage and off. We can warble a few ourselves off the stage, but we can't do it on, and there are those who can thrill people on the stage and paralyze them off.

Now, you take Musical Director E. L. Walker.

He can't sing a little bit on the stage; neither can he sing off the stage.

But at the assembly of the "Happy Family," about the festive board, his voice is as musical as a bird's—an owl's.

He sang "Bill Bailey" in one key just as well as he could have done in two or three, and the other members of the family enjoyed it.

There was, also, Clyde Luther, of the Busy Izzy Company, and E. C. Earl.

Both of them cannot sing at any or one time. They don't have to on the stage. They don't have to off the stage, either.

But some people will do things anyway, whether it disturbs the community or not.

Oh, but there was Miss Ackley, the nightingale of the family, whose beautiful voice is only rivalled by her statuesque beauty; Miss Estie Drew, the girl with the sparkling black eyes and a voice like a thrush, and Miss Bessie Hirst, the blond young thing with the dreamy eyes that make a fellow think he has met his affinity the minute the magnetism of their expression strikes him.

We felt so.

But there was nothing like that doing in the "Happy Family."

All we do is to sing, smoke, tell stories and be merry.

We also keep the neighbors awake.

It is to be hoped that the "Happy Family" will continue in existence, and that mine host Campbell will decorate the walls of the home with the pictures of the members as they come and go.

* * *

Music in the parks will be
A thing to talk about;
When moon shines bright on starlit night,
We couldn't do without.

We asked a young lady with tears in our pocket to write us a few lines to help us out in this column, and this is what she wrote.

The sentiment she may have intended to convey might have been something sublime, and we will take such for granted.

We run many chances that way, and that's why we are always in debt.

OPERATION PERFORMED ON MRS. R. W. POWERS

Dr. Stuart McGuire yesterday went to Chase City, accompanied by a trained nurse, where he performed an operation on Mrs. R. W. Powers, of this city.

This fact was made known in a telegram to the family last night. Mrs. Powers has been at Chase City for a week.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON FOR MARCH 15, 1903.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

SUBJECT: "The Riot at Ephesus." Acts xix, 29-40.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord preserveth the faithful."—Psalms xxxi., 23.

By Rev. J. E. Gilbert, D. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

CONTEXT—Last lesson, ending with the twentieth verse of this chapter, gave an account of Paul's wonderful success at Ephesus. To-day we shall see how quickly public sentiment changed. From a state of popular favor he passed into one of bitter antagonism. The occasion for this revulsion of feeling is found in the intervening verses, 21 to 28. It all grow out of that mercenary spirit that so frequently dominates a class of tradesmen. Demetrius, a silversmith, who made shrines, found that his business was endangered by the influence of Paul. Appealing to his fellows, he represented that even the worship paid so long to Diana, of the Ephesians, would be despised. Full of wrath, they began to cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The multitude had no purpose except to defend the ancient religion. The leaders expected to array the sentiment of the town against the apostle.

CONFUSION—(Verse 29.) The whole city was soon excited as the outcry spread from lip to lip, from house to house, from street to street. A mass of ignorant people, moved by passion in one direction, presents a frightful spectacle. It is so in our day and country. Among Orientalists the case is greatly worse. Travelers declare that sometimes, under such influences, the most savage deeds are enacted. In this instance the multitudes were confused, scarcely knowing the cause of the commotion. Gradually it was noised about that the Christians had made an attack upon the popular religion, than which there could be no greater offense. Whatever may be their practice, men are more ardent in their religious convictions than in any other. Seizing two of Paul's co-laborers, men from Macedonia, foreigners, the Ephesian mob rushed with them into the theatre, the usual place of concourse.

COURAGE—(Verses 30 and 31.) The situation became critical. The lives of two men were in jeopardy, both of them helpers in the gospel. One had been close to Paul; one of the two had been baptized by him (I Cor., 1:14), whose hospitality had been shared (Rom., xvi:23), and the other was destined to be a traveling companion on the journey to Rome. (Acts, xxvii:2.) Will the apostle abandon such men to their fate? Besides, the cause of religion was involved. After all that had been achieved for Christ, shall an infuriated crowd be permitted to array themselves in cruel hatred against the ministers who had come to preach deliverance from sin and superstitution? In that moment Paul rose to the supreme height of a courageous friend and fearless advocate. He determined to enter the theatre, to face the angry multitude, to speak to them, if he might. It was only with much difficulty that his friends persuaded him not to make the venture.

OUTCRY—(Verses 32, 33, 34.) And so the tumult continued and increased, the greater part of the assembly ignorant of the cause of the commotion, but all supposing that their religion was opposed. Fanaticism has gone mad. Under these circumstances the Jews began to fear that vengeance might soon be taken on them also, as they represented a foreign religion. They, therefore, put forward one of their own number, Alexander, the coppersmith, who had been troublesome to Paul (2 Tim., iv:14), expecting that he would defend himself and his nation against any accusation. The Jews hoped in this way to escape the fury of the hour, and leave the Christians to suffer. But as Alexander began to speak it became known that he was a Jew, and his voice was instantly silenced by the noisy clamor of those who were unwilling to hear. With one voice the multitude as before, cried, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The words rang through the spacious building, and overwhelmed every contrary effort to speak.

DIANA—(Verse 35.) Ephesus was the capital of a Roman colony, and the civil authorities were required to maintain the peace. After two hours of this noisy demonstration the town clerk appeared on the scene. Because of his position and power he soon restored a measure of order, sufficient to be heard. He was the man for the hour—with tact possessed by few, he said just the words that were needed to bring quietness to all. He simply told the multitude what they all knew, what every one in Ephesus knew, what had been a matter of general belief so long that it could not be successfully refuted, namely, that the city had worshipped the great goddess Diana, which fell down from Jupiter. That was to those who heard a flattering testimonial; a candid argument and a most judicious pleading. The force of the statement was about this; what is the use of making such a racket about a matter that is firmly fixed in the minds of all? Every one must have seen the purpose of the town clerk.

QUIETNESS—(Verses 36 and 37.) Having made these statements, so well calculated to flatter the superstitious multitude, the town official urged all to quietness, the very thing which he above all others was expected to secure. His appeal was so reasonable that all who heard must have felt its force. There was really no occasion for any uproar. The more sensible portion of those before him could plainly see that what had transpired was purely the result of a causeless excitement. But the clerk with remarkable generosity of spirit did not rest the case here—he proceeded to speak a word of defense for the men who had been so violently treated, who were even then held in the grasp of the angry mob. He seemed to know something of the deportment of Gaius and Aristarchus who must have behaved themselves in Epesus in such manner as to be without accusation. Their vindication at this time was complete. It was authoritatively declared that they had done and said nothing against the popular religion—they had not robbed churches or blasphemed the goddess.

LEGALITY—(Verses 3 and 39.) Here a caveat was thrust into the clerk's address. If, as might have been the case, notwithstanding the loyalty of the people to their religion and the innocence of the apprehended disciples, there were any real grievance, there was a legal mode of redress. If Demetrius, the silversmith, had been injured as he claimed, a mob could not give him justice. Courts of law were established to try all such matters, where the facts may be rehearsed and a decision calmly reached. This was a pleading for law and order, for the right and dignity of government, for the execution of justice by the duly constituted tribunals, as against these orderly and passionate outbursts that would secure good to no one. In this aspect of the case the Roman official appears to excellent advantage. Rome had conquered the world and had imposed forms of civil government upon all the subject peoples of whatever race or tongue. Submission to the lawful authority was therefore required.

PRUDENCE.—(Verse 40.) There was still another point which had not been considered by those who with clamor had rushed into the theatre, a point which the clerk used with good effect to reach the end he sought. Riots and disorders of all kinds, occurring outside of the forms of law, are in reality temporary subversions of government, and therefore officials are obligated to inquire into them, their causes and motives. In such investigation the parties who had begun the trouble might be summoned to answer, and might, in fact, be punished as disturbers of the peace. The crowd saw at once that they were liable to arrest, to trial and to punishment. Prudence alone, a regard for their own welfare, would dictate that they should quietly disperse to their homes. This they promptly did. The government of Rome in the province was thus respected, and all things were speedily restored to their accustomed order—a genuine triumph was effected over the heated passions of men.

REFLECTIONS.—The instructive points of this lesson may be arranged under three general heads. 1. We have a view of human nature, when moved by prejudice, superstion, and selfishness—its animosity, excitability, thoughtlessness, involving the innocent and menacing the rights and interests of society. 2. We see the value and power of civil government in restraining and regulating the actions of men, promoting order and securing justice. Any form of government deserves the consideration of men, and is worthy of support until it becomes subversive of the interests it is appointed to guard. 3. We see how Christians may establish their innocence and compel public approval, thereby escaping censure, how they may come into peril unjustly, but escape through the interposition of constituted authority, how the government may become a helper and friend to Christianity, and truth and righteousness may be established through the joint action of the church and State. The mob sustained Diana; Rome defended the apostles.

THE VIRGINIA UNIONS WOULD NOT BE HURT

Mr. James B. Doherty has been looking into the question of the liability of labor unions and has consulted some of the best known lawyers of the city. He is informed that so far as these gentlemen know no suit is now pending in the United States against labor unions. He has gotten from Judge Cardwell, of the Supreme Court, a copy of the opinion rendered in England giving damages from a labor union because of injury to an employer.

The case was lost by the employer in the appellate court and take to the House of Lords, where the opinion was reversed. Mr. Doherty states that not a few of the unions, particularly the central or national bodies have already been incorporated and is congratulating himself that any increase of the liability of the Virginia unions would not work to the detriment of Virginia unions because of the orderly character of the laboring people of this State. A disturbance by them, save for one or two instances, and in these cases mainly by sympathizers, is something unknown.

CLAYTOR BILL REPORTED

House Committee Wants Harmless Dements in Hospitals.

The House Committee on Asylums and Prisons yesterday afternoon recommended the passage of a bill offered by Mr. Claytor, of Bedford, and passed by the Senate, requiring that harmless dements be confined at the State hospitals instead of being kept in charge of the county and city authorities. It is understood that there are about thirty-five such cases in the State, and the local authorites believe the hospitals for the insane to be the proper places for them. The bill was reported by the narrow majority of one.

SHOT HIS YOUNG WIFE; THEN TOOK LAUDANUM

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

RONCEVERTE, W. VA., March 13.—George W. Peace, an old engineer on the Chesapeake and Ohio road, shot his wife this afternoon and then drank two ounces of laudanum. She was his second wife, eighteen years old, and had left him. He was fifty-two years old. Both are in a dangerous condition.

Mr. Davis Recovers.

Friends of Mr. William B. Davis, of New York, formerly of Richmond, will be glad to learn that he is sufficiently recovered from an attack of pleurisy to be able to return to business.